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been taught to distrust any particular mode of reasoning, should be startled when he finds himself called upon as a Junior or Sophomore to place entire confidence in it. And yet this is precisely the manner, in which the principles of the Calculus have been often treated. In mathematical studies, the student is always most embarrassed by the use of new methods; and it is therefore of great importance that this difficulty should be avoided as much as possible. The consideration of infinitely small quantities can hardly be dispensed with in mechanics, and the other branches of mixed Mathematics; and it is on this account important that the mind of the student should as soon as possible be made familiar with them.

As to the supposed want of rigor in this method, we cannot do better than by quoting a few words from Mr. Peirce's Preface. He says,

"There is no error; for if we suppose that there be an error which we may represent by A , since the aggregate of all the quantities neglected in arriving at the result is infinitely small, that is, as small as we choose, we may choose it to be smaller than A ; and therefore, the error A is greater than the greatest possible error which could be obtained, a manifest absurdity, but one which cannot be avoided as long as A is any thing."

It is remarkable, that this very reasoning is used by writers who affect great rigor, in finding the solidity of the pyramid. If any one doubts its correctness, we know of no more fit answer than the surly remark of Dr. Johnson; "Sir, I am bound to find you in reasons, but not in brains."

We have mentioned two points, in which we think that this book is an improvement upon its predecessors. But these are not the only improvements. Every page shows the same power of condensing, and the same neatness and elegance, for which the two works on Trigonometry, by the same author, are so remarkable.

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11. — *The Shipmaster's Assistant, and Commercial Digest; containing Information useful to Merchants, Owners, and Masters of Ships.* By JOSEPH BLUNT, Counsellor at Law. New York. Published by E. & S. W. Blunt. 1837. 8vo. pp. 683.

THIS is a very good book, though of an humble order of merit. It is plain, practical, and useful; but it is merely a dry digest of revenue laws of the United States, of some of the principles of commercial law, of the commercial regulations of different countries, and of some other matters of general com-

mercial interest. In design and execution, it is well calculated for a companion to the man of business. There is no merchant or shipmaster, who would not find advantage in owning it; and the lawyer, whose studies may have made him familiar with the substance of many of its pages, may yet find information in it, upon which he cannot readily lay his hands in any other quarter. The chapters on Exchanges, on Weights and Measures, and on the Commercial Regulations of Foreign Countries, have brought together information, which, while it is not easily accessible, is of general importance. To the clerk or young merchant, however, we particularly commend the present work. Let him make it a manual, or *hand-book*, and he will acquire knowledge, which will be of daily practical use in his business, and will impart confidence in all his operations.

This is nominally, we believe, a second edition; but the alterations and amendments which have been made in the original work, and the new matter which has been inserted, give it a title to be treated as a new compilation. The following subjects are considered and the laws or regulations relating to them systematically digested; ships, and the title to them, and their registry; navigation acts; custom-house laws; fisheries; revenue cutters; ship-owners; ship-masters; seamen; consuls; freight; general average, and the mode of adjusting it; salvage; bottomry and respondentia; marine insurance; factors and agents; the navy; pensions to naval officers and seamen; crimes affecting commerce; the slave-trade; wrecks; quarantine laws; passengers, and the laws of the different States with regard to them; pilots; bills of exchange; exchange; weights and measures; harbour regulations in the United States; commercial regulations of foreign countries. In the appendix are published the pilot law of New York, and a highly useful and interesting alphabetical table of the tariff or rates of duties, imposed by the laws of Congress, on all goods, wares, and merchandise, imported into the United States in American vessels.

We have but little confidence in works, which assume to make every man his own lawyer. Our faith in history and the large volume of human experience is so great, that we do not believe, in the present state of society, the services of any class of men can at once be superseded, and particularly those of a profession so time-honored as that of the law. Any work, therefore, proceeding on this assumption, we are disposed to attribute either to ignorance, or imposition approaching to quackery, on the part of its author. Such works, however, we have had in no small number, from the days of Giles Jacob, the "blunderbuss of law," commemorated by Pope, to the present time. But

Mr. Blunt's volume, while it draws much from legal sources, and places within the reach of the studious man of business much that has hitherto been accessible chiefly through the medium of lawyers, makes no vulgar assumption, like that to which we have referred. Its title does not cover all its merit. Its simple profession is, that it contains "information useful to merchants, owners, and masters of ships." In the modesty of this profession, we find additional ground for confidence in the work, besides that derived from an examination of its contents.

12.—*Baccalaureate Address, delivered at the Annual Commencement of Lagrange College, June 8, 1837.* By ROBERT PAINE, A. M., President of the College. Nashville, Tennessee. 8vo. pp. 19.

THE author of this address is plainly a western man. His discourse abounds in strong feeling and generous views. His style is copious and figurative, with here and there a dash of peculiarly western rhetoric. His metaphors are not always correct, and his climaxes do not always ascend. He runs into long sentences, without always seeing his way clear out of them. Like most discourses on education, this deals largely in truisms; but its especial object is to consider the peculiar condition of the South-Western section of the Union, in relation to education, its deficiencies, and the proper way to remedy them. We are bound to acknowledge, that President Paine treats this subject with becoming freedom and boldness. The spirit of the West he is not afraid to rebuke, when it runs to excess. The guilty indulgence, which parents too often show towards their children; the false sentiments of honor, with which they inspire them; the loose and dangerous habits they allow them to form; and the pernicious or deadly consequences that follow in an academic or subsequent career, the President describes vividly and plainly, condemning conscientiously, and earnestly urging a reform. His advice to parents is dictated by sound sense, and a clear perception of duty; and his admonitions, addressed to them on many minor points of conduct towards their sons at college, are applicable to other parents, as well as the South-Western. We like his remarks on the necessity of better schools, and a more liberal patronage of colleges, whose claims upon the respect and attention of the public the President urges manfully and forcibly.

But while we like the tone and spirit of President Paine's discourse, there are some blemishes in his language, which must not